Please amend the claims as follows.

9. (Currently amended): A method of publishing a data message ~~on a first topic~~ from a publisher application to a subscriber application via a broker, ~~wherein the broker acts as an~~ intermediary ~~between the publisher application and the subscriber application, thus making it unnecessary for the publisher application and the subscriber application to know any details about each other,~~ comprising the steps of:

selecting a specific publication point data processing node of the broker from amongst a plurality of such publication point data processing nodes, ~~such that a different publication point data processing node is selected on different occasions~~ each of said plurality of publication point data processing nodes being dedicated to the first topic, a publication point data processing node being an entry point data processing node of the broker, such entry point node being followed by a series of other data processing nodes where each node in the series carries out a specific data processing operation on the data message, where each publication point data processing node of said plurality of publication point data processing nodes is followed by a series of data processing nodes unique to the respective publication point data processing node, and where the broker acts as an intermediary between the publisher application and the subscriber application, thus making it unnecessary for the publisher application and the subscriber application to know any details about

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each other because the broker uses a topic associated with
a data message received from a publisher application in
order to determine which message should be sent to which
subscriber application by sending the message to the
subscriber applications that have previously registered a
subscription request for the topic, wherein the broker is a
separate entity from the publisher application and
subscriber application; and

      communicating with the broker via the selected
publication point data processing node, in order to publish
the data message on the first topic via the broker to
subscriber applications that have previously registered a
subscription request to the first topic, with the broker
carrying out the data processing operations corresponding
to the ~~unique~~ series of data processing nodes unique to the
selected publication point data processing node, in order
to process the data message in a different way depending on
which publication point data processing node is selected
even though each of the plurality of publication point data
processing nodes are dedicated to the same topic.

10. (Previously presented): The method of claim 9 wherein
a first publication point data processing node is followed
by a message transformation node and a second publication
point data processing node is not followed by a message
transformation node, whereby, when the first publication
point data processing node is selected, published messages
undergo transformation by the message transformation node

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and when the second publication point data processing node
is selected, published messages will not undergo
transformation by the message transformation node.

11. (Previously presented): The method of claim 10 wherein
the publisher application selects the first publication
point data processing node if message transformation is to
take place or selects the second publication point data
processing node if message transformation is not to take
place.

12. (Previously presented): A computer program product,
stored on a computer readable storage medium, for, when run
on a computer system, instructing the computer system to
carry out the method of claim 9.

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